

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Richard A. Howes et al.
Serial No.: 09/954,507
Filed: September 12, 2001
Group No.: 2666
Examiner: Inder P. Mehra
Notice of Allowance Mailed: December 8, 2005
Confirmation No.: 9058
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MAINTAINING
CONNECTION STATE BETWEEN A CONNECTION
MANAGER AND A FAILOVER DEVICE

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL

I hereby certify that the attached Issue Fee Transmittal (PTOL-85) (one (1) page) and Comments on Allowance (one (1) page) are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on this 6th day of March 2006 addressed to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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PATENT APPLICATION
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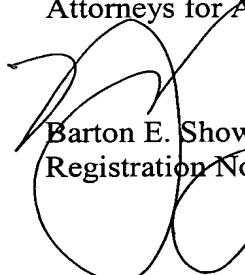
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Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of Claims 1-3, 5-17 and 21-31. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.104, Applicants respectfully issue a statement commenting on the Examiner's reasons for allowance. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's reasons for allowance to the extent that they are inconsistent with applicable case law, statutes, and regulations. Furthermore, Applicants do not admit to any characterization or limitation of the claims or to any characterization of a reference by the Examiner, particularly any that are inconsistent with the language of the claims considered in their entirety and including all of their constituent limitations.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants


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Registration No. 38,302

Date: March 6, 2006
CUSTOMER NO. 05073